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Lecturer Reveals Details on SALT Agreements  
and Laments Jackson Amendment

In the process of justifying the current trend in US-Soviet relations, a Soviet public lecturer has displayed a keen knowledge of the terms of the SALT agreements and has been more forthcoming on the details than have the Soviet media. Although the Soviet press has yet to reveal the figures contained in the protocol and understandings related to the interim offensive agreement, the lecturer, V. I. Merkulov, has done so on at least two occasions, most recently on 20 October.

Speaking at Moscow's Central Lecture Hall, he stressed the importance that Moscow attaches to the steady improvement of its relations with the US. He added, however, that the USSR is concerned about the Jackson amendment to the interim offensive agreement, calling for equality in the number of ballistic missiles and nuclear submarines in the arsenals of both countries. He observed that, in view of the large number of US overseas bases, the US is limited to 41 nuclear submarines while the Soviet Union can build up to 62. (The US, however, is allowed three extra submarines if it dismantles its 54 Titan missiles.) He noted that the US had also agreed to allow the USSR a numerical advantage of 1,618 ICBMs to 1,054 for the US. He concluded that the Jackson amendment, therefore, would hinder the continuing SALT talks and put a brake on US-Soviet relations.

The figures on submarines are contained in the written protocol to the offensive agreement but the limits on ICBMs are based on numbers not written into the agreements. Although these figures have been openly bruited about in the West, the lecturer apparently did not attribute them to the Western press, suggesting that the Soviets are not compartmenting this information as tightly as had heretofore been the case. [redacted]

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